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Docket No.: SON-3163  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Tomiji Tanaka et al.

Application No.: 10/579,903

Confirmation No.: 6919

Filed: May 19, 2006

Art Unit: 2828

For: EXTERNAL CAVITY TYPE  
SEMICONDUCTOR LASER

Examiner: M. W. Carter

**STATUS INQUIRY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Madam:

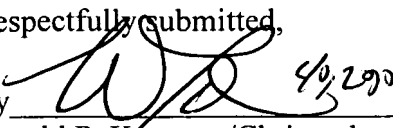
It is respectfully requested that the representative named below be advised of the status of the above-identified application. Please advise us of when we might expect to receive a response to our Notice of Appeal and Request for Pre-Appeal Brief Panel Review filed November 18, 2008.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-3163 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 22, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By

 1/22/09  
Ronald P. Kananen/Christopher M. Tobin

Registration No.: 24,104/40,290

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Attorney for Applicant